



STAFF PHOTO/WESLEY ENNIS

Mark Lewis uses his shoulders to steer the Skud 18 on an aggressive beat into the wind. Lewis, a quadriplegic, sails in Duxbury Bay Maritime School's Accessail Program. (See story on Page A1.)



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Accessail teammates Mark Lewis and Maureen McKinnon-Tucker, along with Dexter, meet prior to sailing practice at Duxbury Bay Maritime School.

## Sailing for disabled vets

Maritime school hopes to expand program

By ANDRIA FARRELL  
MPG Newspapers

**DUXBURY** - The Duxbury Bay Maritime School's Accessail program, which creates opportunities for mentally and physically challenged individuals to sail with an instructor, is extending its reach.

The highly successful program for adults and children would like to add an Accessail program for veterans. Many disabled veterans are looking for ways to get back on the water and back into an active life. This program would allow them the means to become active sailors once again, or maybe even sail for the first time.

John Arnold, a lifelong Duxbury resident, grew up on the local wa-

ters. Now a disabled veteran, he is finding his way back to the sea. And he hopes to show other disabled veterans what the water has to offer.

"The hope is to have a veteran program that will showcase what vets can do," he said.

The Accessail program, modeled after the Shake-a-Leg program based in Miami, is very successful in bringing people with disabilities into mainstream aquatic life.

"We are very enthused about starting a veteran program at the school," Gene Ali of DBMS's Accessail program said.

The success of the program is driven by the many volunteers who aid the sailors on and off the water and keep them safe, Ali says. Programs like these are what make DBMS more than just a maritime school.



STAFF PHOTO/WESLEY ENNIS

Mark Lewis is hoisted into position by his assistant, Haejee Kim, to take his seat as helmsman on the specially modified 18-foot Skud sailboat.